

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 04022 191443Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SEC-01 JUSE-00 SP-02 EB-08
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /035 W
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P 191333Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3681

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4022

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, EAIR, GH
SUBJECT: SEC INVESTIGATION--TEXTRON AND GHANA

REF: (A) STATE 124008, (B) 76 ACCRA 9356

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORMER AIR FORCE COMMANDER
MAJ. GEN. CHARLES BEAUSOLEIL (RET.) IS STILL LIVING
IN QUARTERS PROVIDED BY THE ARMY AT BURMA CAMP,
ITS ACCRA HEADQUARTERS. HE IS SAID TO BE INVOLVED
IN PRIVATE BUSINESS PURSUITS (PROBABLY TRUCKING
AND FARMING) BUT WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC DETAILS.

2. BEAUSOLEIL WAS A BRIGADIER AND ACTING AIR FORCE COMMANDER IN
1971. APPOINTED AIR FORCE COMMANDER IN 1972, HE WAS FORCED TO
RETIRE IN NOV. 1976 (ALONG WITH CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF LT. GEN.
LAWRENCE OKAI) FOR ILLEGALLY IMPORTING AUTOMOBILES INTO GHANA
THROUGH THE R.T. BRISCOE COMPANY, A THEN DANISH CONCERN. REPORTS
IN LOCAL PRESS ALLEGED THAT ACTING THROUGH AN AGENT, BEAUSOLEIL
BOUGHT AN EXPENSIVE SPORTS CAR IN EUROPE (A PORSCHE 911T COSTING
DM 39,645) AND BROUGHT IT TO ACCRA WITHOUT PAYING IMPORT AND
OTHER DUTIES. A GOG DECREE OF DEC. 1976 (REF B) SAID HE OWED GOG
CEDIS 199,781 (\$173,723 AT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE). BEAUSOLEIL
MAY HAVE GOTTEN A BANK LOAN TO PAY OFF THIS DEBT
BUT IT IS RUMORED HERE THAT HE NEVER REPAID THE LOAN
HIMSELF.

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3. OUR FILES DO NOT MENTION ANY DEALINGS BEAUSOLEIL
MAY HAVE HAD WITH TEXTRON. THE ONLY OTHER ALLEGATION
OF CORRUPTION THEY CONTAIN IS A CLASSIFIED REPORT
THAT IN JULY 1976 A PACKAGE CONTAINING CEDIS 10,000
(38,700) IN CASH WAS STOLEN FROM BEAUSOLEIL'S HOME.
LOCAL OBSERVERS SPECULATED THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A

PAYOFF PACKAGE BECAUSE GOG DOES NOT PAY ITS OFFICIALS
IN SUCH LUMP SUM PACKAGES.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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